

From: blincoln
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 1/23/02 5:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

After reading hundreds of pages of documents related to the Microsoft Settlement and many more in previous years, I think it is critical that the US not accept too soft a settlement for Microsoft's illegal, corrupt, and unfair business practices.

Microsoft continues to this day to force clients into exclusive, anti-competitive contracts, they own the rights to a lynchpin in the digital infrastructure and they are using this to continually gather more and more monopolies.

As a monopoly portion of the infrastructure, Microsoft should be required to document and provide openly readable source code for their communication protocols, APIs, as well as for many of their underlying operating system components. Microsoft should not be allowed to create exclusive contracts by which clients who want to buy or use products which are part of the monopoly are required to buy and use only microsoft products for other applications. This is a common requirement and one that is in place with large companies such as Amazon.com.

Microsoft has shown itself willing to be as manipulative as any business can be, ignoring the fact that it has a unique and monopolistic position in the future of our planet. Strong measures must be put in place to force Microsoft to properly open their APIs & protocols so that real competition can begin in building a more robust digital infrastructure: one that is not wholly owned and controlled by the whim of a single for-profit business entity.

Please add additional measures to the current settlement to improve enforcement of the API requirements and add Publication of Protocols to the requirements in this settlement,

thank you,

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